

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in the application. Claims 16-22, 24, 27-33, 41 and 42 have been withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-2, 4-15, 23, 34-40, and 43 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 26 are currently amended. The now pending claims in the application in accord with 37 CFR 1.121, as revised, are set forth above.

The Abstract has been amended to meet the 150 word limit required under MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claims 3 and 26, deemed allowable subject matter by the Examiner, are currently amended and have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the case claim and any intervening claims.

No new matter has been introduced by virtue of the amendments made herein. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request their entry. In view of the amendments made herein and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the December 7, 2004 office action.

Rejections under 35 USC § 101, 102, 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-15, 23, 25, 26, 34-40, and 43 under 35 USC § 101, § 102, and/or § 103. Without prejudice, and solely in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, applicants have cancelled claims 1-2, 4-15, 23, 25, 34-40, and 43, without prejudice.

Clarification on the status of claim 26 is requested. The Examiner states in section 8 of Examiner's Detailed Action that claims 3 and 26 are allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. However, the Examiner includes claim 26 in the rejection under USC § 101. Applicant respectfully inquires as to whether the Examiner unintentionally included claim 26 in the USC § 101 rejection. If so, applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 26 under 35 USC § 101 be withdrawn.

In view of the claim cancellations and the apparent unintentional inclusion of claim 26 in the rejection under USC § 101, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 USC § 101, § 102, and § 103, are rendered moot, and should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments set forth herein and remarks above, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are fully allowable, and solicit the issuance of a notice to such effect. If a telephone interview is deemed to be helpful to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 16-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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